

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A method of inhibiting Vif multimerization in a subject by administering an effective amount of a Vif antagonist to the subject, wherein the Vif antagonist binds to the multimerization domain within a Vif protein.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is an anti-Vif antibody; a Vif protein fragment which comprises at least SEQ ID NO: 25; or a peptide comprising a PXP motif.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the Vif antagonist is an anti-Vif antibody.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the Vif protein fragment is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 23, and SEQ ID NO: 26.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is an analog or derivative of a Vif protein fragment which comprises at least SEQ ID NO: 25.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is a chimeric protein comprising a Vif protein, or a chimeric protein comprising a Vif protein fragment which comprises at least SEQ ID NO: 25.

7. The method of claim 2, wherein the Vif antagonist is a peptide comprising a PXP motif.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein X in the PXP motif is any one amino acid.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the any one amino acid selected from the group consisting of Arg, Val, Pro, Ser, Leu, Phe, Ala, His and Tyr.
10. The method of claim 7, wherein X in the PXP motif is any two amino acids.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the any two amino acids are Pro-Pro or Pro-Leu.
12. The method of claim 7, wherein the peptides comprising the PXP motif are 4 to 20 amino acids long.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the peptides comprising the PXP motif are 5 to 20 amino acids long.
14. The method of claim 12, wherein the peptides comprising the PXP motif are 12 amino acids long.
15. The method of claim 7, wherein the peptides comprising the PXP motif are selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 5, SEQ ID NO: 6, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 9, SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 19, and SEQ ID NO: 20.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is a peptidomimetic of a peptide comprising a PXP motif.
17. The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is a molecule comprising one or more peptides comprising a PXP motif.
18. The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is a molecule comprising one or more peptidomimetics of peptides comprising a PXP motif.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is administered parenterally or enterally.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the Vif antagonist is administered locally.